Bills assented to and disallowed by H. H. the Maharaja.

President.—Next item.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—Sir, I have to announce to the House that the Bill to amend the Chief Court Regulation has received the assent of His Highness the Maharaja, on the 3rd of September 1926, corresponding to the 18th of Chingam 1102. The Bill to amend the Cochin Municipal Regulation has received the assent of His Highness on the 24th of September 1926, corresponding to the 8th of Kanni 1102. I have also to announce to the House that the Electricity Bill passed by the Council has been disallowed by His Highness the Maharaja, as a few alterations were found necessary to be made in it. But an Electricity Regulation on the lines of the above Bill has been passed by His Highness. This course had to be adopted to avoid troubling this House to make the necessary alterations. I have to make the same announcement in regard to the Cinematograph Bill too.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—On a point of order, Sir. Is not the House entitled to know the nature of the alterations made in a Bill passed by the House?

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—It will be published in the Cochin Government Gazette.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—I do not think, and moreover, the publication is not communication to the House.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—The Electricity Bill has, I believe, already come out.

President.—Is it not possible to tell the House on what all points alterations have been made? Perhaps, they might be some clerical errors. Have you got all those points, Mr. Achyuta Menon?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—I remember one or two points. In one of the sections, the word "Act" was not changed into "Regulation" and in another "telegraph authority" into "telephone authority". But the real mistake in the Regulation was the introduction of the term "telegraph authority," when there was no provision in the Bill for the appointment of the telegraph authority. As a matter of fact, the mistake arose in this way. There was a telegraph authority appointed under the British Telegraph Act in British India. There is no similar enactment in this State. We have a Telephone Regulation under which the Government has the power to appoint a telephone authority. We had to change "telegraph authority" into "telephone authority". That is the real substantial change made.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. A. B. Salem.—How much time has to be spent? That would be curtailing the powers of this House. This would have been passed in this House in two minutes. On such a controversial matter, I think the House has got the right to dissent.

President.—It was considered by His Highness. These were the only two verbal changes that were effected.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—His Highness is exercising special powers under section 20 of the Regulation, and the Diwan has powers in the case of emergency. This is neither a case of emergency nor one of such necessity or such difficulty as to pass such changes. If you thus take away the rights of this House, we have every right to protest against it.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—There was one more difficulty. There is no express provision to re-commit the Bill to this Council, when the Bill has been passed by it. I have considerable doubt regarding it.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The difficulty is easily got over by the Bill being passed! An amendment could have been brought to change those two or three words.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—If that was not a great difficulty, the easiest thing now is to oppose it!

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Is it not fair and reasonable to bring in an amendment here? Now, I am only dwelling upon the question of taking away the rights of this House.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—One fact more and the most important of all. The Bill dealt with railways and telegraphs. It was pointed out by the Agent that it was beyond the competence of the Council to deal with them.

President.—We looked to all the aspects of the question, and wherever we see interference is necessary, we are very particular about that.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The Hona'ble Law Member was present here when the Bill was passed. No such difficulty was pointed out when the Government brought it for the opinion of the House. Now, it is quite meaningless to say that some alterations were found necessary, and were made.

President.—We are all liable to commit mistakes.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—We can also rectify mistakes.

President.—The only thing is that we did not want to trouble the Legislative Council. We did not know that you were so very particular about that.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. A. B. Salem.—This is the first instance in which such a thing has been done, and the House is particular that it should have been consulted before making such alterations. I do not particularly refer to the alterations. I know it is an absolutely non-controversial Bill.

President.—It referred to some clerical mistakes.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Well, if you thus take away the power of the Legislative Council, I have nothing to say.

President.—But then, have we not the sense of discrimination? Because we interfered in this small matter, would we do so in all matters?

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—I do not agree with the Hon'ble Member for the Jewish Constituency in that view. If His Highness sees a palpable mistake, is he to pass it? And again, if he is satisfied that it is a palpable mistake, he can either rectify it or refuse assent to the Bill being passed.

President.—Mr. A. B. Salem would say "Let the Bill come. His Highness should pass it with mistakes in it."

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—He does not say that His Highness should pass the Bill as it is; but that His Highness may dissent and should not pass it. The Legislative Council may take it up again, then and there, and have the mistakes rectified. He says that His Highness would have passed the Bill. He says so.

President.—Then you may withdraw it.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I never said so at any time.

President.—Let His Highness refuse assent.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—That is the proper course.

Mr A. B. Salem.—I do not want to say a word about His Highness and his discretion.

A Bill to amend the Cochin Court of Wards Regulation.

President.—Next item—The Cochin Court of Wards Regulation Amendment Bill.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—I beg to move that the Bill to amend the Cochin Court of Wards Regulation be read in Council.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—I second the motion.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—The objects and reasons of the Bill have been published along with the Bill. The object of these provisions, so far as the Court of Wards is concerned, is to enable it to settle the affairs of the estates under it and to

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly